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THE FIRST 100 YEARS OF THE
METHODIST CHURCH, WEBSTER
CITY, IOWA.

Hamilton *Iowa*

The
Methodist Church
Webster City, Iowa

100th Anniversary

1857 - 1957



SOUVENIR PROGRAM

The First

ONE HUNDRED YEARS

of

THE METHODIST CHURCH

WEBSTER CITY, IOWA

Centennial Celebration

SEPTEMBER 29, 1957

PROGRAM

9:45—Church School

10:45—Morning Worship
Bishop F. Gerald Ensley

2:30—Historic Reminiscing
and Fellowship

DEDICATED TO
THE FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST
WHO FOUNDED OUR CHURCH
100 YEARS AGO

Allen County Public Library
Ft. Wayne, Indiana

The Past One Hundred Years

Methodism in Webster can be traced back to the very first settlers.

The first formal religious ceremony was a wedding solemnized in 1850 by Rev. Thompson Bird of Des Moines between a soldier from the barracks at Fort Dodge and Lucretia Stanley, a niece of the Brewers. Her father, "Uncle Billy" Stanley, was probably a Methodist Exhorter.

After the death of "Uncle Billy" Mrs. Stanley moved to a cabin near the present Market Square.

The first preaching service in this community was held in this cabin, conducted by Rev. Thompson Bird of Des Moines.

If weather permitted he preached out-of-doors under the spreading trees and Sunday School was held in connection with the preaching service.

In the late summer of 1851 a Methodist Exhorter, "Elder Hughes", visited the locality and held a camp meeting at the Brewer home.

The season was not an auspicious one for company. Almost no crops had been raised. Nevertheless, the Brewers were hosts to all that arrived: from Fort Dodge to Marshalltown and forty miles around: if they had made no other provision for themselves.

People arrived on foot, horseback and whole families in ox-drawn covered wagons. Several Indians were among the attendants.

Elder Hughes arrived a couple days before hand and advised them to bake up the cornmeal in "dodger" for the gathering. The fatted sheep was prepared for the feast—but the quality of the stew on that occasion, judged by today's standards, would not call for a prodigal's return to his home and family.

Several of those attending signified their desire to follow the lowly Master.

The religious services of 1851 continued with considerable change and irregularity for several years.

Joshua Housework presided at meeting house services intermittently during the winter of 1851-52.



OUR FIRST CHURCH—1866—THE CHURCH ON THE PRAIRIE

During the winter of 1852-53 we were served occasionally by Elder Kent and an exhorter named David Eckerson.

Following these were the regular circuit riders: Methodists Montgomery and Day, Congregational Skinner. There was no sect or creed distinction in the early church work.

The first religious society in the county was the "Swede Bend Church"—the Swedish branch of the Methodist Episcopal Church—established in April 1854 to accommodate the Swedes who had settled along the Des Moines River. This group transferred to our church in 1919 when their building was destroyed.

The cornerstone of the organization of Methodism in this community was an old-time Methodist "class" which was organized by Rev. David Power Day in 1857.

They met in the White Fox school two miles north of the city until 1862 when an organization was formed in this city.

Elder Todd, the first residential Presiding Elder, built the first parsonage—about three blocks west of the present church.

Worthy and earnest men served the charge in those days. Records show their salary was sometimes not more than \$232 per year. However, this humble sum was somewhat increased by donations of wood, dressed hogs, quarters of beef, sacks of beans and apples and jugs of primitive sorghum.

The meetings in the city were held in the old Town Hall and in Rhodes Hall until after the Civil War, when the society had gained sufficient strength to think of building a house of worship for themselves.

In 1865 a building committee was appointed: David Beach, Simon Day and Albert Cook.

In 1866 the foundation of the first Methodist church in this city was

laid. It was the first church built in the city. Willson Bros. donated the lot. The building was of brick. The seats were of pine, hauled (FREE) from Boone and Iowa Falls, the nearest railroad terminals. The finishing material was of native hardwood sawed at Tuckers Mill. Heated by stoves, the 26 members furnished the wood for fuel. The church was located on a lot between the Court House and North School Building (Junior High). It was appropriately named "The Church Out On the Prairie."

This church building was used for twenty years—until March 18, 1886—when it was torn down and part of the material used in the larger structure of 1886: which marks the beginning of the second period of Methodism in Webster City.

In July 1885 the lot between the Court House and the North School was sold to the Independent School District of Webster City for \$350, on condition that the church building (built in 1866) be removed.

About this same time the lot on the corner of Bank and Des Moines streets was given to the society by B. F. Miller and the adjoining lot purchased from him.

The first load of stone for the building was placed on the new site October 14, 1885.

In December Rev. W. D. Phifer offered a novel plan for raising money to begin the new building. He proposed that the church be sub-divided and the cost of the construction of the roof be assumed by the lawyers of the city and the other professional and business men build other portions. There is no record to show that this plan was adopted.

The following newspaper notice would indicate that some rather strange subscriptions were received by the Pastor: "Auction—I have just taken a horse on church subscription which I will sell at public auction on Saturday afternoon, September 18, at two o'clock to the highest bidder for cash or on approved note. Sale to be held in front of The Hamilton County Bank. Signed: W. D. Phifer."

The record does not show whether or not the pastor mounted the steps and cried the sale nor the amount received for the animal.

But by February, 1886 the contract for the carpenter work had been let to W. H. Drake of Dows, although the greater part of the work was to be done by local citizens.

The tearing down of the old building was begun on March 18, 1886. A farewell service had been held the previous Sunday: a last donation party on the eve of the 17th.

W. H. Craig, to whom belongs the honor of having constructed the first and only streetcar line in Webster City, was granted the contract for the brick and other masonry work. He at once proceeded to construct his railway from the old church to the new to convey brick and stone to the site on the corner.

On May 5, 1886, the cornerstone was laid with appropriate ceremonies.

Rev. Edward Walker of Fort Dodge, Presiding Elder, delivered the



OUR SECOND CHURCH—1886

address. Rev. W. D. Phifer presided. Rev. L. N. Call, Baptist and Rev. J. D. Wells, Congregational, represented their churches.

Placed in the box in the cornerstone were articles which saw light again in the spring of 1912, when this church building made way for the present house of worship. The cornerstone itself has been saved and is a part of the west wall of the dining room in the basement; a memorial to the second home of Webster City Methodism.

Among the trustees who served the church during this strenuous season and stood by the faithful pastor to the end were E. R. Lee and a Mr. Carr.

While the building was in process of construction the congregation worshipped in the Court House.

During this season the social instincts of the church and community were stimulated to the utmost—Pink Teas, Ice Cream Socials, Mite Society Socials, Donation Parties, etc.

Among the more pretentious of the entertainments was a New England supper, followed by a presentation of *The Courtship of Miles Standish*. The admission was only 10¢ — but the crowd was so large that the receipts totaled \$78.00.

A Dairy Maid's Reception was held on the evening of April 21st, 1886. The ladies of other churches assisted in the preparation for this fete. Each milk-maid had an elaborately decorated stool, painted by talented local artists. These were sold by auction after the entertainment and — we can imagine — brought some fancy prices.

The newspaper of April 28th reports it "an entertainment above the average" which netted \$72.00 for the furnishing fund.

In June the Sunday School held a "jug breaking" and the little stone jugs in which pennies, nickles and dimes had been stowed away for months, gave up their treasures and joined the other coins in the building fund.

September 5, 1886, was the day set for the dedication. The Congregational and Baptist pastors dismissed their congregations and the choirs of the three churches joined in furnishing the music for that Sunday.

Rev. Earl Cranston, D. D., Manager of the Methodist Book Concern and a future Bishop, delivered a very able sermon on the subject of the "Written Word". Rev. Clinton of Independence also spoke with ability and earnestness.

But the real event of the day did not take place.

The entire cost of the building had been \$7,700.00. All but \$800 had been raised by the evening of Dedication Day, \$2,200 having been subscribed in the morning. There the gifts halted.

The rule of the Methodist Church does not permit the dedication of a church until the cost of the building has been entirely provided for. So the dedication was postponed.

It took place, however, only three weeks later — September 26 — at the Sunday night services of the 15th Session of the Northwest Iowa Conference which met in Webster City in 1886.

Bishop Foster, assisted by Rev. G. W. Pratt and Dr. A. Kynet, secretary of the Board of Church Extension, conducted the dedicatory ceremonies.

The Freeman of September 8, 1886, says: "In all the years of its future usefulness, this fine edifice will stand as a monument to the energy, perseverance and excellent management of Rev. W. D. Phiifer."

After the building of the church Rev. Phiifer took up the work of financial agent for Cornell College and later moved to Denver, where he served as District Superintendent for 12 years.

Twenty-five years later the Methodists had outgrown this church and Rev. C. H. Kamphoefner began laying plans for our present church, which was dedicated December 29, 1912.

But during that 25 years: membership had grown from 140 in 1886 to 373 in 1912; Sunday School attendance from 159 to 339; from \$73 given to Benevolences in 1886 to \$1,113 in 1912; church property value had grown from \$9,000 to \$40,000.

In the fall of 1892 Rev. H. K. Hastings ushered in a most flourishing period of our church. Money was raised to pay the last indebtedness on the building of 1886. The interior of the church was redecorated — giving the society a better standing in the community.

In 1893 the State Epworth League Assembly was held in our church. Delegates from all over the state were present. This proved a great inspiration to the local league, which became the largest and most efficient in Iowa.



OUR PRESENT CHURCH—1912

Following this convention, evangelistic meetings were held. About 90 — mostly young men and women — entered the church work, greatly strengthening it.

In the fall of 1895 the churches of the city united in a series of evangelistic meetings, which continued until the Annual Conference of Northwest Iowa met in Webster City on October 22, 1895, with Bishop J. W. Joyce presiding. This has since been spoken of as the "Revival Conference" — having been one of the greatest held in Northwest Iowa.

The church having advanced along all lines during these three years, found itself ready to launch out upon a new building project — the erection of the parsonage of 1896.

So in the summer of 1896 the old parsonage which was located at 729 Bank street was moved to the 1200 block on Division street just south of the ball park and made over into two houses.

The new parsonage that was completed in the fall of 1896 cost \$3,500.

Rev. Mahood was especially successful with the young people: the Epworth League overflowed from the small lecture room at the rear of the church into the main auditorium and a Junior League was also granted a charter in February of 1897.

The Sunday evening congregations were especially large; the capacity of the church was taxed to its utmost and people were sometimes turned away. Plans for an addition to the church were made but it was finally decided to wait until an entire new building was possible.

The first record found of any "Women's Organization" in the Webster City Methodist Church is dated February 24, 1897, under the name of "The Ladies Aid Society".

Many of their meetings were held at the Parsonage with six—up to 20—in attendance.

Frequent mention is made concerning a member of the Official Board being present to make known the condition of the church treasury. This resulted in a pledge of money from the Society to aid in paying some debt.

At a later date Home and Foreign Missionary Societies were organized and met regularly—in addition to the Ladies Aid Society. Members made donations and paid dues.

As the Society grew in numbers over the years it was necessary that they be divided into Circles—with regular meetings in addition to the General Meeting.

In January 1901 Rev. E. S. Johnson arrived in Webster City. He will be remember as the Doctor-Pastor, at home in the sick room. Mercy Hospital was built at this time and under his direction was first put in running order by the Methodist Church.

Rev. Johnson was also prominent in military circles and served for many years as Chaplain of the 56th Regiment of the Iowa National Guard.

In 1912 he was appointed Bishop of South Africa.

Mrs. Ginn (wife of Rev. F. W. Ginn) assisted by Mrs. W. C. Johnston and Mrs. J. M. Haladay reorganized the Junior League in 1905. It became a flourishing organization; the regular three-year course of study was adopted; the third year a fine class graduated into the Epworth League.

1908 brought us the efficient leadership of Rev. C. H. Kamphoefner: the church steadily increased in members.

In November 1909 — after the union tabernacle meetings — a large number of new members came into the church. It became too small for the steadily increasing congregations. The Sunday School also needed more room. Something had to be done.

Plans for remodeling were considered and discarded as unsatisfactory. It was finally decided to build an entirely new church.

So on March 19, 1911, Dr. T. C. Iliff of Denver was called to the city to assist in raising funds. Enough money was pledged to warrant the appointment of a committee by the pastor the following day: J. B. Hughes, F. A. Huddleston, J. L. Peterson, J. N. Iliff and W. C. Johnston.

This committee acted together with the pastor and the treasurer, S. K. Virtue, to the completion of the project.

Plans were submitted to the committee and those of Architect J. C. Fulton of Uniontown, Pa., were adopted.

The contract for the building was let to C. E. Atkinson on January 10, 1912, for the sum of \$24,000.00.

On February 7th work was begun on tearing down the old building. The walls were finally razed; the cornerstone of 1886 opened and its historic treasures brought again to light.

In the early evening of July 11, 1912 people of the city gathered about the foundation and fast rising walls of the new structure to witness



OUR PARSONAGE HOME 1951-52

the laying of the cornerstone of the third home of Methodism in this city.

Dr. A. E. Craig, President of Morningside College at Sioux City delivered the address of the evening. Rev. Kamphoefner presided at the ceremonies, assisted by Rev. W. H. Spence of Fort Dodge.

People sat about the building on seats constructed of planks laid on bundles of shingles; many climbed upon the tall piles of materials in the street just bordering the sidewalk; others gathered along Bank and Des Moines streets in their automobiles and carriages.

At dusk Rev. Kamphoefner placed the copper box, filled with the historic treasures taken from the old cornerstone and others added by him, in the receptacle made for it. Contractor Atkinson sealed the crevice and laid the stone, a beautiful granite block donated by Dodge & Baker.

The cornerstone laying would have taken place earlier but for a mistake in shipping which delayed it for many weeks. It was missent to Webster, Iowa.

Original date for dedication of the building was November 24, but unavoidable delays postponed the event until Sunday, December 29th.

Participants in the morning services included: Laura M. Dysart, organist; W. T. McDonald, District Superintendent of Fort Dodge; Rev. G. O. Kidder of Sioux City; Rev. Arthur Metcalf of the Congregational church; Dr. Iliff of Denver, the speaker, and Rev. Kamphoefner.

The statement submitted by S. K. Virtue, treasurer for the board of trustees, revealed: cost of the church \$31,049.23; cost of organ \$3,000.00; paid and subscribed to date \$20,163.00; subscribed by ladies for organ \$3,000.00; total to raise \$10,886.23.

With faith and good humor Dr. Iliff proceeded to direct the efforts resulting in raising \$6,123.50 before one p. m., when the congregation was dismissed for dinner.

The evening service opened with Miss Rosalind Cook at the organ; Rev. B. F. Stafford of Clear Lake offered the opening prayer and T. W. Owen led the responsive reading of the 122nd Psalm.

There was about \$5,000 yet to raise, so Dr. Iliff proceeded at once, with a feeling of hopefulness spreading quickly through the audience.

Subscriptions began to follow each other in rapid succession — Mrs. Owen offered \$500, providing the entire sum was raised — when there was still \$2,000 to be provided for Dr. Iliff divulged a secret to the ladies, resulting in only \$500 being needed, which came quickly and victory was at last assured.

In the raising of the total some of the contributions were: George Herr Reinecker \$5,000; F. A. Huddleston \$1,500; W. C. Johnston \$1,000; Alexander Groves \$1,000; Wm. Arnold \$1,000; Eitekah Class \$1,000; St. Andrews Class \$1,000; Ladies Aid Society \$1,500 for the building and \$1,500 for the organ.

At 9 P. M., with Dr. Iliff, Dr. McDonald, Rev. Kamphoefner and all other ministers in the audience on the platform; the trustees and building committee standing in front of the altar railing; the church was formally presented by F. A. Huddleston, representing the board of trustees.

With a delicate and becoming courtesy on the part of Dr. Iliff he stepped aside and gave the honor of dedication to the pastor.

On October 1, 1913, the 42nd session of the Northwest Iowa Conference met in Webster City, Bishop Shepard presiding. This was the fourth time that Webster City had entertained the Annual Conference since its organization in 1872.

The fall of 1917 Rev. R. T. Chipperfield was appointed pastor. The Centenary Movement had its beginning during the Conference year 1918-19 and during the next 5 years about \$30,000 was pledged.

The Young Women's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Church was organized September 5, 1919, with Mrs. R. T. Chipperfield as hostess and sponsor.

At the December meeting Leona Ruppel announced that she had been appointed a missionary to Bombay, India, and was leaving for her assignment soon. She served for eight years. During this time her salary was paid in part or in full by the Young Women's Foreign Missionary Society.

Other missionaries in whom the Society was especially interested and helped support were: Joy Smith of Fort Dodge, missionary to China; Mable Resor Crynes, to Java; Gladys Crawford to Sager Brown Home, Baldwin, Louisiana; Carl Felt to China.

During October 1920 the Baptists, United Brethren and Methodist churches staged another Union Evangelistic effort. A Tabernacle was erected. The "Business Men's Gospel Team" of Fairfield, Iowa, led by A. K. Harper, evangelist and Gus Scott as singer, conducted the services. The unique feature was that all were active businessmen; they accepted no remuneration; they gave what was offered to the education of worthy young people who expected to engage in Christian service. The Methodist Church received 50 new members as a result of these meetings.

During the summer of 1922 the Ladies Aid Society redecorated the church auditorium at a cost of \$835.

The fall of 1923 marked the close of the Centenary Movement. The pastor reported \$5,232 as the total benevolent offerings from all sources for the year.

1931-34 saw Rev. Harry M. Burns as our pastor. By the combined sacrifices of pastor and people the church weathered one of the worst periods of depression in the history of the community.

In May 1932 fire destroyed the roof of the sanctuary and necessitated redecoration of the entire interior.

The year 1934 brought into our midst a doughty Englishman, Rev. Joseph J. Share. No pastor ever more successfully endeared himself to the hearts of the people.

With the help of his beloved wife, Beatrice they graded and re-organized the Sunday School and Youth Fellowships. Many young people enjoyed the inspiration of the summer camps at Lake Okoboji and the Share cottage there. Beatrice Share organized the Intermediate Department of the Sunday School and taught the Alpha group of employed women.

In 1937 the 25th Anniversary of the building of this church was celebrated with a large banquet and fitting programs.

The "Uniting Conference" was held here in 1939 when all annual conferences confirmed the reuniting of the Methodist Church North and South and the word Episcopal was dropped from the official title. Bishop J. Ralph Magee was the presiding officer.

The September 11, 1940, General Meeting of the Ladies Aid Society was adjourned to organize the new "Women's Society of Christian Service" with 154 charter members. The new organization combined the duties and functions of the Ladies Aid Society and the two Missionary Societies.

At the time of this Centennial—the Society has a membership of near 500; a budget of \$7,109.63 for the past year; \$1,000 was given the Sunday School for equipment; \$3,500 for Missionary work.

When the Young Women's Foreign Missionary Society was discontinued by the Conference of 1943, the Society became a circle for one year; but in 1944 it was organized into the J. O. Y. Wesleyan Service Guild and in this capacity was serving the church today; by pledges and dues to Missions, supply work, week of Prayer and Self Denial, local church cultivation fund. Total paid the past year was \$556.94.

1944-53—under the leadership of Rev. John A. Farnham—saw growth both numerically and financially. The entire church was redecorated; indirect lighting and a new furnace installed; kitchen and dining room remodeled; the west parlor recarpeted; the fourth parsonage, valued at \$28,000, built in 1951-52, with the basement to be utilized for Religious Education; amplifiers, hearing aids and velvet cushions in the pews; a central aisle; a memorial board honoring our men in service; the chancel of the church remodeled, carpeted and furnished to accommodate a new pipe organ and the divided choir.

Membership increased by about 500; Sunday School enrollment almost tripled; missionary, benevolent and special project giving rose to an all time high; the church ranked among the first in contributions to the erection of Friendship Haven in Fort Dodge.

The first annual session of the W. S. C. S. met in Webster City in 1949 when 700 women were entertained by the local society.

A men's club was organized in 1950 and sponsored the District Laymen's meeting in October 1952 with Bishop Ensley as guest speaker.

In 1953 Rev. C. H. Pettersen came to Webster City at the close of a 19-year pastorate in Forest City. He quickly demonstrated his ability for organization and spiritual leadership.

The fall of 1953 saw the Lacour Crusade at work in our church. New members were added, the youth inspired and the entire membership reconsecrated.

The Men's organization became affiliated with the National organization and were chartered as a Methodist Men's Club in December 1953.

The growth of the Sunday School required more space; an Upper Room was made by building a floor in the second story of the Junior assembly room at the rear of the sanctuary; a chapel with new altar and furnishings was possible on the first floor, which has served as a meeting place for small groups and its continuously lighted altar provides a place for quiet meditation and personal devotions.

With the help of the W. S. C. S., a ladies lounge and powder room was furnished on the second floor.

The Upper Room (assembly room for the Intermediates) was furnished by memorials and the W. S. C. S.

An additional Sunday School room was made out of the old coal bin back of the furnace and the entire basement repainted. Two additional class rooms were provided in the parsonage by the erection of partitions.

New altar candle lighters, lecturn and pulpit lights were installed and tables and chairs added to the Sunday School and Chancel equipment.

On Sunday, December 26, 1954, these improvements; together with the remodeled chancel, new pipe organ and parsonage built during the pastorate of Rev. Farnham, were dedicated by Bishop Ensley and the congregation.

The Methodist Men's Club sponsored Troop 22, Boy Scouts of America.

A lighted outdoor bulletin board, was installed; a special book for recording memorials was provided.

Confirmation classes strengthened the youth work and classes of instruction were held for adults.

Omar Pettersen served as parish visitor the summer of 1954. In 1955 Rev. J. J. Share, retired, was assistant pastor and Marilyn Hanson was added to the staff as Parish Worker. Mrs. Pettersen directed the Junior Choir and Fellowship — developing a very enthusiastic and devoted group.

A second series of evangelistic meetings were held in the winter of 1955 led by Rev. Stuart Jorensen of Windom, Minnesota.

The missionary program of the church was greatly expanded by special offerings at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter—memorials and gifts to the Advance Special program.

In June 1956 Walt Aman was sent as our special representative with the Lacour Mission to Japan and received special commendation for his work among businessmen, government officials and service clubs.

Rev. Kitterman came to our church in 1956 and for the first time in almost 50 years a young child of the ministers own family played on the parsonage lawn.

Mrs. Kitterman has been especially active in the children's work of the Church School where she, Mrs. Clarence Keeley, Linda Van Doren and Miss Ada Bell have presented the additional sessions for the study of missions.

Average attendance at Sunday School this year has been 344. Additional tables, chairs, black boards, screens and record players have been added to the equipment.

A projector for slides and film strips was purchased in 1956.

The colored glass windows have been re-leaded, repaired and the frames painted. The bell tower was reinforced.

The Easter Sunday congregation numbered 1063 and average church attendance has been well over 400.

A monthly "Newscaster" edited by Rev. and Mrs. Kitterman is keeping our church membership of 1200 informed of the work of various departments and affords another channel for inspiration and service.

Missionary and benevolent giving this past church year reached nearly \$5,400.00.

As we complete the first 100 years of our church life, serving the Master under the banner of Methodism, we rejoice in the faithful corp of church members and friends who have made up our church family. The happy and fruitful past has been made possible because layfolks and ministers dreamed dreams, had visions of greater things ahead; possessed a desire to serve and pressed on in a high calling, meeting the challenge of tomorrow.

Tomorrow, the next century calls to us. Our officials are studying needs and preparing goals. We want to continue to build His Kingdom and achieve great accomplishments for our Christ.

(History compiled by Miss Ethel Virtue)

Occasional preaching by Circuit Riders or local preachers in early years; Webster City and Fort Dodge on same circuit 1854-1857; Class organized 1857 by D. P. Day; Church incorporated January 2, 1866 and reincorporated 1936.

Ministers who have served our church:

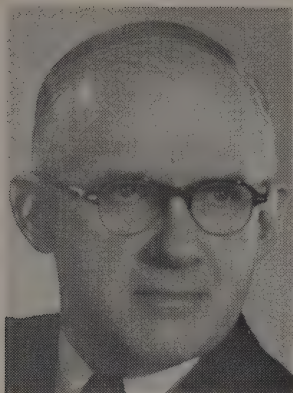
1854-55 Richard Clegg	1883-86 W. D. Phifer
1855-56 D. A. Abbott	1886-88 F. H. Sanderson
1856-57 J. Parker	188-89 S. P. Marsh
1857-58 C. H. Lawton	1889-92 R. H. Bagnell
1858-59 Bethuel Holcomb	1892-95 H. K. Hastings
1859-60 John Hestwood	1895-97 J. W. Mahood
1860-61 John Montgomery	1897-99 G. H. Kennedy
1861-62 Elijah Kendall	1899-1900 F. E. Day
1862-64 William Black	1900-01 H. G. Pittenger
1864-66 W. F. Hestwood	1901-03 E. S. Johnson
1866-68 J. A. Copeland	1903-05 G. W. Southwell
1868-69 D. M. Mallory	1905-08 F. W. Ginn
1869-70 J. M. Bly	1908-16 C. H. Kamphoefner
1870-72 J. R. Berry	1916-17 W. J. Todd
1872-74 H. T. Curl	1917-23 R. T. Chipperfield
1874-75 H. D. Brown	1923-25 E. C. McDade
1875-77 J. H. Lozier	1925-31 T. B. Collins
1877-78 R. C. Glass	1931-34 H. M. Burns
1878-79 H. N. Sexton	1934-44 J. J. Share
1879-81 J. A. Potter	1944-53 J. A. Farnham
1881-82 R. N. Earhart	1953-56 C. H. Pettersen
1882-83 A. J. Beebe	1956- R. D. Kitterman

(Above data taken from the 1947 minutes of the Northwest Iowa Conference and the information from 1947 added to bring the record up to 1957)

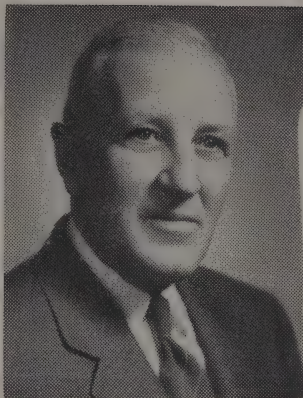
HISTORIC DATES

at the Webster City Church

- 1877—6th Session Northwest Iowa Annual Conference—Bishop Andrews presiding
- 1886—15th Session Northwest Iowa Annual Conference—Bishop Foster presiding
- 1893—State Epworth League Convention
- 1895—24th Session Northwest Iowa Annual Conference—Bishop Joyce presiding
- 1913—42nd Session Northwest Iowa Annual Conference—Bishop Shepard presiding
- 1927—56th Session Northwest Iowa Annual Conference—Bishop Keeney presiding
- 1939—68th Session Northwest Iowa Annual Conference and the Methodist Uniting Conference—North and South—Bishop Magee presiding
- 1949—First Annual Session of the Women's Society of Christian Service
- 1952—District Laymen's Meeting—Bishop Ensley, speaker



**Bishop
F. Gerald Ensley**



**District Supt.
Dr. H. D. Temple**



**Pastor
Rev. R. D. Kitterman**

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEES

GENERAL COMMITTEE: George Aden, Byron Calkins, Charles Pilmer, Robert Naden, Mrs. John Mikel, Max Smith, William Castner, Edmund Seiser, Mrs. Wm. Nott, Walt Aman, Henry Maudlin, William Dunn, R. D. Kitterman.

INVITATIONS TO FORMER MEMBERS AND FRIENDS: Mrs. Byron Calkins, Mrs. Ray Baird, Ada Bell, Lola Hughes, Ethel Virtue, Linda Miller.

PROGRAM: Walt Aman, Byron Calkins, Edmund Seiser, Robert Naden, Max Smith, R. D. Kitterman.

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT AND DISPLAYS: Ethel Virtue, Ada Bell, Mrs. Guy Prunty, Mrs. Gurney Blue, Nina Bishop, Paul Walterick, Will Miller, Jessie Boys, Maud McConnell.

FINANCES: Henry Maudlin, Wm. Dunn.

ENTERTAINMENT OF GUESTS: Women's Society of Christian Service, Mrs. John Mikel, President.

REGISTRATION: Mrs. Glen Weldon, Mrs. Hattie Lee, Mrs. Harry Ambrose, Miss Hattie Adams.

USHERING: Albert Koolhof, Alex Lessels, Frank Derkas, Ross Howerter, Francis Jones, Jim Sylvester, Richard Lubbers.

PUBLICITY: William Miller, W. J. Carmichael.

BUILDING: Board of Trustees.

QUARTERLY CONFERENCE AND OFFICIAL BOARD

Dr. Francis Gerald Ensley, Bishop
Dr. Herbert D. Temple, District Superintendent
Minister: Ralph D. Kitterman
Retired Minister: Joseph J. Share
Lay Leader: Robert Naden
Assistant Lay Leader: Gary Black
Lay Member Annual Conference: Edmund Seiser
Reserve Lay Member Annual Conference:
Mrs. Ray Baird
Chmn. Membership and Evangelism:
Mrs. Wm. Nott
Chmn. Education: Church School Superintendent
Chmn. Missions: Walt Aman
Co-Chmn. Finance: Henry Maudlin, W. A. Dunn

District Steward: Carl Elkin
Recording Steward: Mrs. Glen Weldon
Superintendent Church School: Chas. Pilmer
President Woman's Society: Mrs. John Mikel
President of Youth Council: Sue Mikel
President Methodist Men: Max Smith
President of Young Adults: Wm. Castner
President of Berean Class (Sr. Adults):
Edmund Seiser
Secretary of Memorials: Mrs. Byron Calkins
Treasurer Local Budget and World Service:
Byron T. Calkins
Financial Secretary: Ellis Swon

BOARD OF STEWARDS

1957-60

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Wm. Castner
W. Eugene Noller
Robt. Ladd
Raymond Lear
A. W. Langerak
Mrs. Roy Richards
Anson Smith
Howard Vulgamott
John Raines
Dr. R. E. Savage
Harry Cleckner
Floyd Erickson
Francis Jones
Albert Koolhof
Elmer Lemon
Gerald Miller
Arvid Sealine
Chester McNelly

1956-59

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Russell Greene
Forrest Whisler
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Ardel Nissen
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Melvin Wepel
Mrs. Gardner Naden
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H. R. Jensen
Alex Lessels
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Neil Scoles
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1955-58

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Harold Elliott
Clare Forrester
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Mrs. Orville Berryhill, Mrs. Harold Van Fossen, Mrs. Melvin H. Steuerwald, Mrs. Edmund Seiser,
Mrs. H. D. Richards

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1955-58

George B. Aden
Keith Graham
Edmund Seiser

1956-59

Robert Nissen
Leslie Hanson
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1957-60

Will A. Miller
John McBurney
Arthur Tolstrup

(All above named are members of Quarterly Conference and Official Board)

CHAIRMEN OF OTHER COMMITTEES

Pastoral Relations: Edmund Seiser
Custodian of Legal Papers: Will A. Miller
Records and History: Ethel Virtue
Auditing: Neil Scoles
Farm and Home: Chester McNelly
Hospital and Homes: Mrs. Albert Koolhof
Parsonage: Board of Trustees and Committee
appointed by Woman's Society

Music: Harold Van Fossen
Ushers: Albert Koolhof
World Peace: A. W. Langerak
Temperance: John McBurney
Flowers: Woman's Society
Armed Forces and Student Sec'y:
Mrs. Harold Singer
Good Literature: Mrs. R. D. Kitterman
Wills and Legacies: George B. Aden

★ ★ ★

Organist: Mrs. A. W. Langerak Director of Adult Choir: Mrs. R. E. Savage
Director of Youth Choir: Mrs. Frank Beisel
Church Custodians: Mr. and Mrs. Englehart Brandt

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